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ABSTRACT

This survey was conducted in 1992 to determine the state of affairs in preparing professionals to work in the library and information services (LIS) field. The paper examines programs in Fiji, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand, Guam, and Hawaii. Information is given about the nature and length of college or university level degree programs and the numbers of students and faculty. Education for LIS on two levels is examined: (1) professional, which requires matriculation at an institution of higher education; and (2) sub-professional, which is aimed at training individuals for support roles in library and information services. (Contains 8 references.) (Author/KRN)

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EDUCATION OF LIBRARIAN AND INFORMATION PROFESSIONALS IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

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ABSTRACT

This survey was conducted in 1992 to determine the state of affairs in preparing professionals to work in the library and information services field. The paper examines programs in Fiji, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand, Guam and Hawaii. Education for LIS is on two levels: (1) professional, which requires matriculation at an institution of higher education, and (2) sub professional, which is aimed at training individuals for support roles in library and information services.

EDUCATION OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION PROFESSIONALS IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

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Library development in the Pacific Islands did not receive much attention until after 1945 or the close of World War II. Since that time changes in this vast region have been dynamic. There have been improvements in social and economic matters, especially in education. Tertiary education has developed in the region through the establishment of colleges and universities in Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Western Samoa, The Solomons, Guam and Micronesia.

This paper examines education of library and information professionals in New Zealand, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, and Guam. Hawaii is also included because of its geographical location as a group of Pacific Islands, although it is a non contiguous part of the United States. Library and information education in the region is on two levels: (1) professional, which requires matriculation at an institution of higher education, and (2) sub professional, which is aimed at training individuals for support roles in library and information services. There are approximately 25-30 islanders of the South Pacific who have professional qualifications. (This excludes New Zealand.) At the Manila Congress of IFLA in 1979, it was recommended that a regional library and information school be established for the South Pacific Islands. Because of the vastness of the area of the South Pacific it was realized that it would be difficult to designate a single institution to serve all of the region's needs for education and training in library, information and archival studies.

There has been some form of information education and training in the region since 1946 when the first professional diploma in librarianship was

offered by the New Zealand Library School. The following discussion traces developments since 1946:

New Zealand

Victoria University (1)

In 1979, the National Library of New Zealand discontinued the famous New Zealand Library School. Beginning in 1980 Victoria University in Wellington offered the Diploma in Librarianship. In 1990, the Department's name was changed to the Department of Library and Information Studies. The Department offered for the first time in 1992 the new Diploma in Library and Information Studies. The M.A. degree in Library and Information Studies is also available for those who possess a post graduate diploma in the field.

The diploma program limits its annual enrollment to approximately 60 full time and part time students. The Department offers a modern program that has reformed its curriculum to coincide with the recent innovations and developments taking place in communication and information technology. The course of study consists of a foundation course and twelve other courses. Eleven of the twelve courses are required, allowing for one elective course. Individuals may study for the diploma in librarianship through distance education. This program began in 1992 and limits enrollment to 50 students. The next cycle of students admitted to pursue the diploma through distance education will be in 1994. Students are required to spend one week a year in residence at the Department. While in residence at the Wellington campus students meet fellow students, members of the faculty and visit a variety of libraries. The course of study for distance education is supported through weekly telecommunication tutorial sessions held in centers throughout the country. Students are required to use microcomputers with MS-DOS for many of the courses.

Admission to the diploma program is very competitive. Students are admitted based on their academic records, work experience in libraries or information centers, and their potential contributions to library and information services. Among the compulsory courses is a sequence of courses for information technology, library automation and information storage and retrieval. The department is well equipped with its own computing laboratories consisting of terminals and microcomputers linked to the University's computer network. Students have access through the computing lab to the University's on-line catalog, NZBN, Kiwinet and international databases such as Dialog and ORBIT.

In 1992 there were eight full time faculty members and several support staff in the Department.

Auckland College of Education (2)

The Auckland College of Education offers a national program for training in information studies and teacher-librarianship. The program is part-time and requires for admission qualifications as a teacher. These diploma programs are offered: Diploma of Teacher-Librarianship, Diploma of Information Studies and Diploma of Information Technology. The latter two programs expect to receive final accreditation in 1993. Individual courses are available to all practicing teachers at seven off-campus sites and at the six colleges of education. In 1991, 496 and 1992, 700 practicing teachers enrolled in library and information studies courses as continuing education.

The curriculum includes units on information skills, school libraries and learning, information sources in education, resource development and analysis, information technology and learning, library and resource management, and teacher librarian as a specialist teacher.

In 1993, a new program offering a Certificate in School Library and Administrative Services will be offered. This program is for non-teaching support staff employed in schools. The curriculum consists of courses on basic office management, clerical and basic library management skills.

Wellington College of Education (3)

Wellington College of Education established its School of Library Studies in 1980. The course offers the New Zealand Library Studies Certificate "to provide an intermediate qualification in library skills" for individuals who are employed in libraries. The course is a basic program in principles, techniques and skills that are performed in libraries. The aims of the program as stated in the bulletin are as follows:

1. to provide a general program at the intermediate level with basic qualifications for a variety of types of libraries in New Zealand.
2. to provide students with the knowledge, skills and techniques of librarianship and to relate their practical experience to these.
3. to develop an understanding of the principles and practices of librarianship as a basis on which further experience and continuing professional education can be built. (4)

The course lasts 20 months and is offered in three six week block sections of full-time study (totally 18 weeks). Enrollment is limited to 60 students in each class.

Admission to the Certificate program requires (1) satisfactory completion of the University Entrance examination or be a holder of the Sixth Form Certificate with passes in four subjects. Special consideration is given to individuals who do not meet all of the academic requirements (2) must be a paid employee for nor less than 15 hours per week in a New Zealand library (3) must

have been employed for at least six months (4) must be under 55 years of age at time of application.

Fiji

University of the South Pacific (5)

Fiji provides both Certificate and Diploma programs through the University of the South Pacific. Both programs are intended to meet the needs of the island nations.

The Fiji Certificate in Librarianship was started in 1972 by the Fiji Library Association as a training program for library assistants in the region. The need was for a practical course for library assistants who worked in small libraries and for those who worked under the supervision of professionally educated librarians. In 1981, the University of the South Pacific started the Certificate on Librarianship that was also made available through distance education. The Certificate in scheduled to end in 1993. The program would have graduated between 160-180 individuals by the time it closes.

In 1990 the University of the South Pacific began a three year Diploma program in Librarianship and Information Studies. The program required completion of ten courses, six are in library and information studies and four are electives chosen from the courses for the Bachelor of Arts degree. Applicants to the program must (1) hold the Certificate in Librarianship or (2) have passed the New Zealand University Entrance or its equivalent or (3) acceptance for "mature" university entrance and three years work experience in a library. In 1992, 65 students are enrolled in the Certificate and 90 in the Diploma programs. Approximately 90% of the students in both programs are working in libraries and information type agencies. Thus far, 12 students have completed the Diploma. The director of the program reports a failure rate of 40-50% for those

who did not come through the Certificate program. Students may continue on towards a Professional Degree.

Continuing education is done mainly through workshops which vary in length from one day to ten days. Short courses are taught by senior staff members at the University of the South Pacific and often by invited instructors from New Zealand, Australia, Canada, and the United States.

A recent movement is underway to save the Certificate in Librarianship and upgrade it to become a stronger academic program. Protests from the regional countries served by the University sparked interest in the Certificate program's future. The revised version of the Certificate would make it the first year of the Diploma program. Mel Rainey, Coordinator of the LIS curriculum states that "on the whole the program is going reasonably well although we need another full time person on staff. There are approximately twelve students that I would give strong support to continue work towards a Professional Degree and they are not all from Fiji, which is nice to see."

Papua New Guinea

University of Papua New Guinea (6)

Studies in library services began in Papua New Guinea at the PNG Administrative College in 1968. In 1977 a joint diploma program was established by the Administrative College and the University of Papua New Guinea. The diploma program was intended as a junior level professional qualification. In 1988, the University began offering the Bachelor of Library and Information Studies. Today, UPNG offers, in addition to the BLIS degree, a Diploma in Library and Information Studies and a Library Technician's Certificate. These programs are articulated so that a holder of either the certificate or diploma can possibly move up to the next qualification.

Admission to the BLIS program requires meeting general University admission criteria. Students take a minimum of nine courses in library and information studies and are required to have extensive field work experience. All students are required to complete either a minor or major sequence in another discipline in fulfilling degree requirements. The degree program requires the equivalent of four years of study. The diploma program also requires two years of equivalent study.

In 1992 a total of 112 students are enrolled in the Department as follows: Diploma in Educational Studies-Teacher Librarianship (DESTL) 31; Certificate in Information Studies (CIS)-Records Management 22; Library Technician's Certificate (LTC) 29; Diploma in Library and Information Studies (DLIS) and Bachelor in Library and Information Studies (BLIS) 30. Since the program began in 1968, 500 various certificates and 120 diplomas in librarianship have been awarded.

Guam

University of Guam (7)

In 1989, the University of Guam reinstated its certification program for pre and in-service teachers to meet Guam certification requirements in school librarianship. It is an undergraduate minor specialization in the College of Education. The curriculum prepares school librarians who will be able to develop, promote, and administer effective school library programs in Guam and the region of Micronesia. Because the University of Guam is accredited by the U.S. accreditation agency, holders of certification for Guam would also meet the certification requirement of some school systems in the United States. School librarians on Guam must also meet certification requirement for teaching. A total of six courses are required; two of the six courses are electives. Library assistants

who are employed in school, public, academic, or special libraries may enroll in library science classed as regular of special students.

In 1992 eleven students are enrolled in the certificate course and three have graduated. Continuing education courses in library science are offered through the University's Center for Continuing Education.

Hawaii

University of Hawaii (8)

The School of Library and Information Studies was established in 1965. The School's program of studies leading to the MLIS degree is accredited by the American Library Association. Throughout its history, the School of Library and Information Studies has accorded special recognition to the unique geographical and cultural setting of Hawaii. The School's goals are:

1. Furnish students with the knowledge, skills and attitudes that are basic to professional competence and career-long professional growth in library and information services.
2. Expand the knowledge base of the profession through research.
3. Share its resources by extending services within Hawaii and beyond.

Requirements for admission are: (1) hold a minimum of a bachelor's degree (2) maintain a B average in college work (3) Graduate Record Examination (GRE); for those with English as a second language the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL).

The School offers the following specializations: (a) School Library Certification (b) Certificate in Advanced Library/Information Studies (CALIS) (c) Certificate in Archives and Records Management (CARM). In addition, the School as a cosponsor of the Ph.D. in Communication and Information Sciences.

There are joint graduate degree programs. Students may pursue the MLIS degree and a second master's concurrently to develop an in depth specialization. The following joint programs exist: information and computer science (MLIS/MS), American studies (MLIS/MA), history (MLIS/MA), Pacific Islands Studies (MLIS/MA) and law (MLIS/JD).

The School's current research interests are in the areas of library automation, information systems and full text retrieval and information seeking behavior. Dr. Carol Tenopir leads a research team doing research in use of full-text databases. The group consists of doctoral students in the communication and information science program.

Conclusion

Education for Information careers in the Pacific has evolved since 1960. The education of librarians in the region has followed the development of libraries in the region. Since 1945 libraries and information resource management have slowly been recognized as essential to national development. The necessary monetary support required for library development must compete with other institutions and agencies for social, scientific and economic development. Yet in many countries in the region library development has received support of from government, regional and international agencies. The growth of libraries and information have strengthened the case for support educational programs in LIS, including degrees, diplomas, certificates and continuing education. All indicators point to continued growth and development of library and information services as well as the education and training of the required personnel for the Pacific Islands.

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Biographical Note

Dr. Miles M. Jackson is Dean and Professor at the School of Library and Information Studies, University of Hawaii. Previous positions have been with Government of American Samoa, State University of New York and Atlanta University. Dr. Jackson's doctoral studies and research have been in mass communication and information use. He was the inaugural chair of the Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program in Communication and Information Sciences at the University of Hawaii, 1986-1989. He has published widely on communication and information services in the Pacific in articles and books.

Photograph Attached

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